



Toni Hardesty

Toni Hardesty is Director for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Governor Dirk Kempthorne first appointed her to this position in July 2004. Since then, she has been reappointed by Governors James Risch and C.L. “Butch” Otter. As director, she is responsible for leading efforts to preserve the quality of Idaho’s air, land, and water for the use and enjoyment today and in the future.

In addition to heading up DEQ, Director Hardesty serves at the request of the governor on a number of state commissions and boards, including the Western States Water Council, the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, the Pesticide Management Commission, the Idaho Rural Partnership, and the Board of Drinking Water and Waste Water Professionals.

An Idaho native, Director Hardesty earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental health from the Boise State University

Her environmental career began in Boise as an intern in the Air Quality for the Division of Environmental Quality.

In 1988, she moved to Seattle to begin a job with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency broadening her knowledge of environmental compliance and regulation.

After two years with the EPA, Radian International LLC, an environmental consulting firm in Bellevue, Washington, persuaded her to move into the private sector as a Project Manager and Environmental Scientist. There she developed technical expertise and became skilled in negotiating environmental issues with agencies, citizens, and industry. She also gained considerable experience in developing and managing public relations regarding sensitive issues.

During her 10 years with Radian, Toni was offered a position with EMCON, one of the largest providers of integrated solid waste services in the United States. After one year of service as a Technical Staff Manager and Operation Manager, she was recruited back to Radian, now URS Corporation, to manage the Boise Office. There she sharpened her skills to successfully manage both technical and corporate needs.

Since 2003, Toni has served the Department of Environmental Quality as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Air Quality Division, and as administrator of the Water Quality Division overseeing the agency efforts to protect Idaho’s surface, ground, and drinking water resources.

Toni lives in Boise with her husband and their two children.